SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year - August 20, 1973

No 211

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

Bring into full play the spirit of the August Revolution and September 2nd

Advance the South Viet Nam revolutionary cause !

TWENTY eight years ago, the August Revolution came to a successful conclusion. The August 1945 General Insurrection led to the emergence of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and ushered in a new era for our nation — an era of independence and democracy. Since then, colonial and semi-feudal Viet Nam has become an independent and free country, our people have wrested back control over their own destiny and their own land; the August Revolution has given back to each one of us the right to live in equality, independence and happiness.

Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. True to their independence pledge, our people have in the last 28 years devoted their whole strength and mind to the defence of independence and freedom. With only bamboo sticks in hand, the South Vietnamese people were the first citizens of our free country to rise up to defend the young power, then engaged with the rest of the nation in the nine-year resistance to eventually force the French colonialists to sign the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam. These provided for the end of the war of aggression, the withdrawal of the French Expeditionary Corps, and recognition of our country's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

THE US imperialists soon stepped into South Viet Nam, set up in Saigon a client administration in their pay, exerted themselves to wipe out all the fruits of the August Revolution and to turn the Southern part of our country into a US neo-colony and military base. The South Vietnamese people once again had to take up arms to resist the most brutal, cunning, weapons- and dollars-rich imperialism in defence of their independence and freedom.

In the last 20 years, they have been making the most of the lessons of the August Revolution and the First Resistance, and fighting with an uncommon courage and fearlessness of hardships and sacrifice. All war strategies of the US imperialists were successively foiled. The tremendous military gains of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces and the dramatic success of the North in the fight against US aero-naval war eventually compelled Washington to sign the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and pledge to respect the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, end their war of aggression and military involvement, recognize the actual co-existence in South Viet Nam of two administrations, two armies, two zones of control and three political forces, respect the South Vietnamese people's genuine right to self-determination which was to be achieved through a democratic process and national concord. The signing of the Paris Agreement was a US admittance of its failure in its neo-colonialist adventure. For the first time in the history of our 115 years of gruelling fight against foreign invaders our land was clear of aggressors, and in 28 years our nation defeated two big imperialisms : the French and the American.

The Paris Agreement was signed half a year ago. Our people in country and towns, in highlands and plains, should have been able to enjoy a life of peace, concord, democracy and peace, were it not for the serious worsening of the situation due to the US and the Saigon administration. Since the coming into effect of the Agreement, they have committed more than 150,000 breaches including 30,000 grabbing operations and 100,000 police actions. The hostilities far from ending have become even more violent in certain areas. Such a situation provides a clear proof of US-Saigon dark scheme to keep the fighting going on, to continue infringing upon the PRG-controlled liberated area and to extend and consolidate the US neo-colonialist system.

Actuated by the same sinister calculations, the Saigon administration have up to now refused to return the detained patriots in conformity with Article 8 of the Paris Agreement.

Meanwhile all democratic liberties are suppressed. Whole series of fascist measures have been taken to arrest and to shoot people on sight in a crack-down upon the popular movement in the area under their control. Their prisons, big and small, numbering more than 1,000 are always packed to capacity with patriotic and peace-loving inmates to whom have been added newly arrested prisoners "purged" in the course of "pacification" and police actions directed against the urban people's drives for democratic liberties and better living conditions.

While concrete proposals both reasonable and sensible have been put forward by the PRG in an effort to give the internal problems in South Viet Nam an overall and realistic solution, including specific steps in negotiations, the Saigon administration have advanced their "draft preliminary accord" with as its first provision the holding of general elections, and even dates to be included in a "time table" for the solution of South Viet Nam's internal problems. But those elections would have to be held at a time when in the Saigon-controlled area, no political stability exists, democratic liberties remain suppressed and political forces are persecuted : they could only be farcical elections. To let the South Vietnamese people exercise their right to self-determination through the holding of such "elections" would amount to liquidating their very right to self-determination, legalizing the Nguyen Van Thieu dictatorial regime and doing away with the PRG — something the US atrocious aggression with all its barbarity could not achieve. Such proposals of the Saigon administration as their "draft preliminary accord" and "time-table" consequently are but crafty manoeuvres to confuse and distract public opinion and indefinitely postpone the settlement of South Viet Nam's internal problems with a view to maintaining in office the dictatorial Nguyen Van Thieu administration.

As a matter of fact, the Saigon administration have been seriously and systematically violating quite a number of provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. Their moves are but the logical continuation of those they resorted to in the time of the US war of aggression. If some time ago the Thieu administration were a tool for the "Vietnamization of the war" strategy of the US, they are at present a US instrument for sabotaging peace and the Paris Agreement. Since they have been set up, supported and manipulated by the US government, the latter is to be held entirely responsible for those intrigues. It is guilty of tolerating, instigating and master-minding the Saigon administration's continued opposition to our people's legitimate and deep aspirations.

PEACE, independence, democracy and happiness — that is what the South Vietnamese people are ardently aspiring for. The National Front for Liberation and Provisional Revolutionary Government are resolved to go on respecting and implementing scrupulously all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam as a way to realize those aspirations and they insist that the US and the Saigon administration do the same.

The signing of the Paris Agreement has opened up for the South Vietnamese people a new stage of struggle to consolidate the newly-won independence, freedom and peace and to heal the wounds of war, to normalize the people's life, and restore and develop national economy. The South Vietnamese people and armed forces are ready to strengthen their unity in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, and to fight for the integral and strict implementation of the Paris Agreement, so as to achieve genuine peace, independence and democracy, improvement of the people's living standard, while building the liberated areas into a strong and prosperous territory and progressing toward a peaceful, independent, democratic and prosperous South Viet Nam and ultimate reunification of the country.

The South Vietnamese people will have to face many difficulties and hardships on their revolutionary path. But we have fundamental advantages — a posture stronger than ever, and forces more powerful than ever. We moreover, have at our disposal the juridical foundation of the Paris Agreement and our policy of national reconciliation and concord which are important weapons for us to overcome difficulties, safeguard peace, perfect independence and democracy.

Let us bring into full play the spirit of the August Revolution and September 2nd, comply with the last instructions of President Ho Chi Minh ! Let all our South Vietnamese people and armed forces join the rest of the nation in the resolute struggle to advance our revolutionary cause.

Complete victory will certainly belong to the South Vietnamese people !

SOUTH VIET NAM

Political prisoners continue to accuse

What's going on Ben Tre prisons

"In the jails of Ben Tre province, the Saigon administration still detains 2,554 patriots and peace partisans : 120 in the eastern part and 210 in the western part of the municipal district, 639 south and 488 north of Mo Cay, 446 at Giong Trom, 175 at Ba Tri, 62 at Cho Lach and 69 at the provincial capital.

Up to these last days, the Saigon authorities have resorted to medieval torture against detainees and made arrests at any time. Nguyen Thi Sau of Ba Tri, Vo Thi Lan and Huynh Thi Go of Mo Cay and Ky of Thanh Phu held in Ward 10, *La* prison, have been tortured to incapacity and have caught dangerous gynecological diseases. As a result their lives are in grave jeopardy. Mr Dinh, Mr Thu and others arrested and detained after January 28, 1973 in Ward 2, *La* prison, were beaten to unconsciousness several times ; when brought to the provincial capital they could hardly walk, their bodies covered with bruises all over. Among the prisoners, five had been crippled from torture and four died in May and June. Jails throughout Ben Tre province lack the most elementary sanitary facilities and their inmates receive inadequate food. In those detention centres there is no medical attention for the sick and a great member of prisoners are dying a slow death. Their lives hang by a hair. We call upon all progressives to take necessary actions to force an end on US-Thieu horrors."

(Extract from a letter dated August 1st, 1973 from patriotic and peace-loving detainees in Ben Tre prisons)

We are RVN soldiers

"In spite of our association with the government of the Republic of Viet Nam, we were arrested and detained. After the restoration of peace, the RVN government should have released us unconditionally returned us to our families, and not to the Provisional Revolutionary Government. This was an act brazenly contrary to the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement and our wishes.

As for us, we are just "squeezed oranges" of Nguyen Van Thieu but with regard to all other detainees his atrocities, which we have witnessed ourselves, are simply impardonable, and beyond imagination. We demand unconditional release to return to our families with guarantee for security and non-retalitation."

Signed : Vo Van Be, 43, native of Binh Dai, Ben Tre, policeman and militia chief of Thoi Thuan village, who read out on behalf of 50 former fellow - inmates this protest to the International Commission Team at the return ceremony at Loc Ninh on July 31, 1973 ;

Nguyen Huu Hanh, sergeant, 42, service number 51/203,900 supply corporal Company 411, Battalion 41, engineering aid, Army Corps I KBC 4963 ;

Vo Van Thu, lieutnant, 30, native of An Tuong village, Hoai An district, Binh Dinh, service number 43/129,441 KBC 3143, Psy-war Regiment 20, Army Corps 2 ;

Chau Xao, private, Infantry Division 9 ;

Nguyen Phu Be, service number 68/25,102 Ranger multi-battalion 5, KBC 4598.

No change at all

"I was arrested by Saigon authorities on October 19, 1972 on what charge I do not know, and was never tried. On December 19, 1972, they took me to Con Dao together with 500 men and women who were in the same plight as I.

At the Phu Yen jail where I was detained there were 1,100 inmates. Male and female prisoners were forced to sport a badge with the inscription : Political convicts. They were also forced to discuss the so-called open-arms policy and to apply to the Ministry of the Interior for benefit from this policy. During December 15, 16, 17, 18, 1972, warders came in, did the roll call then drove us in lorries to judicial department of the police service and there, after some brief interrogations, we were forced to sign a prepared statement. The Saigon authorities at Phu Yen took to Nha Trang the rest of the prisoners whom they charged with being *Gian nhan hiep dang* (adventurers' party) members.

In Con Dao, the prison authorities did not let us know anything about the Paris Agreement and its Protocols one of which deals with the return of civilian personnel held by the two sides.

Moreover, the warders here stepped up their brutalities and ill-treatment : solitary confinement in solitary cells, stone-walled undergrounds, tiger cages, cow-houses, and a diet of rotten dried fish and very little rice.

Toward the last week of March 1973, Dao Van Pho, a lieutenant colonel, governor of Con Dao prison, led a field policy force and from 50 to 60 guards in a crack-down on female detainees in Wards 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Camp 2 and mixed up prisoners of one ward or one camp with prisoners of other wards or other camps.

On April 29, 1973, field policemen complete with masks, tear-gas grenades and rockets, and over 50 guards who had been standing by were ordered to irrupt into Wards 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 ; their cruelties resulted in 5 killed, (Nguyen Kim Cuc, Pham Ngo, Nguyen Van Doi, Ho Chi Tang and Trinh Thi Thanh) and 30 beaten to unconsciousness. After this horror, they mixed up inmates of Wards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Camp 2 and shut up the prison for a whole day.

Moreover, the rascals seized all the belongings of the detainees including the most necessary things like clothing.

The prisoners, invoking the Paris Agreement, presented petitions for an improvement of the penitentiary regime as provided for by its provisions and the related protocol. The warders were forced to increase from two to seven hours the time allowed to the detainees' airing in the corridor.

On July 20, as the prisoners were waiting for their plane to the return site, the police searched their luggage and took away about a hundred plastic fans embroidered with flower design worth over 500 Saigon piastres each, and a lot of mosquito nets, blankets and newly-embroidered pillow-cases. The fans had been made of odds and ends by the inmates.

In brief, in spite of the Paris Agreement, since January 27 Con Dao prison has not changed an iota.

As a local notable and chairman of a branch of the Red Cross Society who has fought for peace, democracy and national concord, I call upon domestic and international opinion to demand that the Saigon administration seriously abide by, and implement, the Paris Agreement by releasing all patriots still in detention and enforce democratic liberties. I request the International Commission of Control and Supervision and the Two-Party Joint Military Commission to prevail upon the Saigon administration to strictly execute all the provisions of the Agreement, the Protocols and the Joint Communiqué."

Vo Don Hoa, former member of the Provincial Council of Phu Yen

Rice crisis in Saigon

ON May 20, Thieu announced a "reconstruction and economic development program." He prattled about "the healing of war wounds," "advancing toward self-sufficiency and doing without foreign aid," higher living standard for the people and so on and so forth.

But in reality, since August last year, the piastre has been devalued eight times and each devaluation has been attended by a price hike and more difficulties for the people, especially the toiling masses.

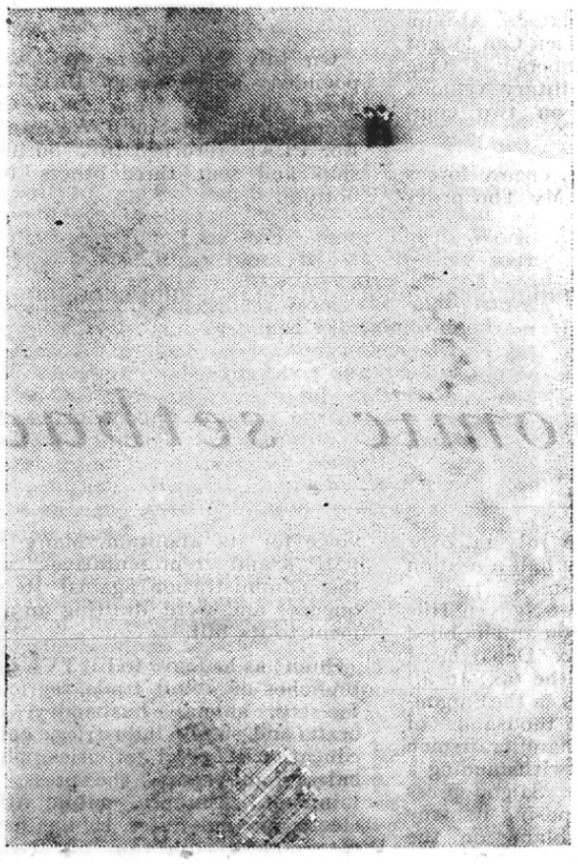
Series of exorbitant, fascist taxes, more particularly the most recent TVA have sent prices of prime necessities skyrocketing, first and foremost of rice which has become scarcer than at any time previously. A rice crisis is sweeping through the Saigon zone.

Since 1971 there have been at least two such "crises" but, the Saigon daily *Dai Dan Toc* of July 24 stressed, none was so serious. Stocks will be exhausted in about two months' time in Saigon and one month in the northern provinces. For over a month now concentration camps in the Saigon-controlled part of Quang Tri province having received no more rice supplies are confronted with a distressing situation and already famine is looming large. At Kontum, the people over the past six months can only get rice at the black market. 300 families of orphans and widows at Dong Tam and Long Khanh camps have had to put up with rice soup for the past two months. Those living on the one-meal-of-rice-soup- and - one-meal-of - regular - rice-a-day diet are increasing. Many are those who have but one 40 *xu* loaf of bread a day for each of its members. Reporting on the rice shortage in the army, the *Dien Tin* of July 20 wrote : " Though the majority of militarymen pray for God's help, prices race after taxes and the General Department of Supplies do not give them rice. For two years not a soldier has been able to get it from the supply sergeants. Since May 1973, each militaryman's ration of 21kg has been cancelled and paid 1,700 piastres in compensation, with which sum he can get only 10kg on the market."

Thieu calls on everyone to tighten his belt but who including the civil servants and the military can do otherwise in the present circumstances. Rice prices not only go up every month but every week, every day. In many places this staple food has disappeared all of a sudden. Last July rice which used to cost 9,000 piastres a bag of 100kg was sold at 13.000, then 16.000 and finally 17.000. In early August certain days its price rose to 18,000. To placate public opinion the Thieu administration has spread rumours that ships of the Navy and planes of the Air Force will soon carry rice to the northern provinces. How can Thieu do so for he can't simply get rice anywhere, not counting the fact that since June 28 he had been secretly sending 2,000 tons to Lon Nol every week (Until July 20, according to preliminary data, aid to besieged Phnom Penh amounted to roughly 20,000 tons). Ironically enough, under Thieu, South Viet Nam, once a big granary of Southeast Asia will have to import as many as 450,000 tons this year without being able, however, to meet the needs of the population under his control !

in our liberated zones

Crustaceans and sea-fish abound in our markets



Militia patrolling on the seaside

— Parents in Saigon are strongly protesting the practice in 65 colleges to require each first-year student to contribute 10,000 piastres, allegedly to the "School Development Fund." In the girls' college of Suong Nguyet Anh, each sophomore has to "contribute" as much as 11,000 piastres.

Such "contributions" are exposed as a kind of tax on students.

— Another great worry for parents in the biggest city of South Viet Nam is the growing number of drug addicts in schools. It has become widespread that students of Gia Long and Trung Vuong Colleges smoke marijuana or eat pot candy.

According to a spokesman of the "National Police Directorate" there are some 100,000 drug addicts in Saigon-held areas, who use around 2 tons of grass every month. Users of the 16-25 age group are growing in number and prefer the kinds that can give them the greatest "kick," like heroin, morphine, etc.

Concerned citizens have set up vigilance groups to combat this evil.

— The director of the Saigon Taxes Service, addressing 4,000 representatives of the half a million handicraft workers and peddlers on July 13, was booed down and had to promise the suspension of the "added value tax" and other measures to extort money from small business.

in the cities

Many in the audience, including soldiers' wives, took the floor to denounce the heartlessness of the Saigon administration.

— What with the high price of news print, what with the "added value tax" on literary products, writers and journalists in Saigon are finding it very hard to make a living. According to a Catholic priest in the Literary Centre, since the enforcement of the 007 Decree, due to the lack of money for "security deposits" almost half of the 40 dailies and many periodicals have had to close down.

— Besides the "added value tax" the Saigon administration is making people pay for the "right" to use pavement, to set up billboards, to build balconies or rig up awnings, to run delivery trucks, to put up newsstands, etc.

As a counter-measure many have refused to fill the printed forms issued by tax collectors.

— Hundreds of small traders in Tra Vinh city, evicted during the current "city development" programme, are insisting that they be left alone to do business. Their watchword is "Our places are our own pots of rice."

— Dengue fever has violently erupted anew in Hue and Pleiku according to the Saigon papers *Cong Luan* and *Tia Sang*. In Hue, the mortality rate is very high, with 15 to 20 children dying every day. In Duc An area, Pleiku, 5 children died within the week ending July 24.

— Necessities have been acutely short and their price skyrocketing in areas still under Saigon control. The cost of a 100 kilogram bag of first-class rice has climbed from 13,000 to 16,000 piastres, and sometimes up to 18,000 piastres. Meat has gone up from 900 to 1,300 piastres a kilo, fat from 500 to 700 piastres a kilo. Many a merchant has had to close down. According to Thieu's Statistical Service the prices of several kinds of goods have experienced a sharp rise of 300 per cent to 2,000 per cent as compared with 1968 and 30 per cent compared with the first days of 1973.

Sugar is 56-60 per cent dearer, oil and petrol, 43-76 per cent. From the price hike of sugar, Thieu squeezes 5 billion piastres (Saigon's currency) a month from the people under his control.

Civil servants turned into "pacification members"

Thieu has been "militarizing intellectuals" with a view to turning them into "pacification" cadres. Since August 1st, he has forced eighty thousand civil servants to attend the so-called administrator training course at Vung Tau and threatened that those who refuse to join the course will be dismissed instantly. The move has been met with strong protest from Saigon's civil servants, members of the "House of Representatives" included, who charge that Thieu's measure runs counter to the people's aspirations.

Dengue rampant in South Viet Nam

A serious epidemic of dengue has been rampant at Vung Tau. Scores of affected children are admitted daily to the hospital there, and the casualties increase rapidly, which makes things very hard at the hospital for there are only one doctor and six nurses on its staff. Moreover, due to the sudden influx of patients, they have to accommodate as many as three children in a single bed. The disease which broke out in Hue some months ago, has spread southwards, through Da Nang, Pleiku to Saigon and is now playing havoc at Vung Tau, hitting dozens of thousands of children and killing thousands of them. And yet the Saigon administration has not taken any measure to curb the calamity. "It is ironical," the *Dien Tin* commented that, "a lot of money has been spent on the printing and translation of numerous posters and on endless teach-ins on birth control, while this dangerous disease has been allowed to drag on and on for months. All they did about it was to publish a small pamphlet advising people 'to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes'!"

Textile industry and husbandry brought to a standstill

Textile industry in Saigon has been more dead than alive for its production is only up to 50 per cent of its capacity. And no solution is in view as the situation continues to deteriorate due to a severe shortage of raw materials, to cut-throat foreign competition, and the draft of its skilled workers. To make the matter worse, the price of yarn has gone up by 30-100 per cent, and the TVA (added value tax) has inflicted big losses on many textile firms.

At present, up to 50 per cent of the animal breeders are thinking seriously of giving up their trade as they now have to pay double for animal feed which too is subject to a steep hike in price.

Actions for better living conditions

Recently, 50,000 "suspended" drivers have sent a delegation to Saigon authorities to ask for recognition of their right to work. Almost all of these drivers are ex-soldiers and unemployed ex-functionaries whose livelihood has seriously been threatened by the "TVA."

In Quang Nam province, a conference was held by 500 motorcyclocab drivers to denounce the unlawful withdrawal of their licences, the arrest and detention of drivers. "This", they stated, "has made life very hard for us and 32,000 other people, members of our families."

Thousands of workers at the Shell Company at Nha Be (Saigon) and at other firms have been protesting against the dismissal of a number of their mates. They have threatened to down tools in a body if the Board of directors refuse to end this move.

Opposition to land-grabbing operations on the liberated areas

On July 17, nearly 200 railway workers, who were forced by the Saigon authorities to come, and lay new lines, in the area under the control of the PRG in Long Khanh province, resolutely refused to go to work and demanded medical care for those workers and soldiers who had been wounded while laying rails. Numerous relatives of the wounded thronged the construction site to support the protestors. They denounced Thieu's unlawful encroachments on the liberated areas and asked for the return of all the workers to Saigon. Railway men at various workshops in Saigon voiced strong opposition to the administration's scheme to send their mates to a senseless and certain death. They went to their superiors and urged for their support and for steps against the authorities' action.

Land-grabbers beaten off

IN July, Saigon troops launched nearly 300 inroads of battalion-size into the PRG-controlled zone in Western Nam Bo. In Chuong Thien province alone they mustered 62 battalions including 8 of Infantry Division 21, 4 of Infantry Division 9, Ranger unit 41, Armoured Regiments 2 and 9, a multi-battalion of Armoured Regiment 16 and Task Force 211 comprising 4 river craft and a number of landing craft. In 400 landings Task Force 211 coordinated action with *bao an* (security) forces of Chau Doc, An Giang and Phong Dinh provinces and with a dozen battalions of other troops. 70,000 artillery shells and 800 bombs were used to provide a cover to the assailing forces. These were intercepted by liberation regulars, regionals and guerillas who knocked out over 11,500 officers and men, set afire or sank a number of boats and landing craft and destroyed a great quantity of war materials.

Since Jan. 28 Saigon troops have mounted a series of large-scale operations upon areas under PRG control west and north of Saigon. After the Joint Communiqué and a new cease-fire order came into effect, the Saigon administration deployed Division 5 and two Ranger battalions against the liberated areas in Bo La, Phuoc Vinh and Dong Xoai. Supporting the intruders were aircraft, two multi-battalions of Armoured Regiment 15, a heavy tank unit of Armoured Regiment 22, and 30 artillery pieces from Phuoc Vinh, Dong Xoai, Cong Xanh, Lai Khe and Bau Bang. On a 12-mile distance from Cong Xanh to Nuoc Vang (Route 14), multi-battalions 7 and 9 of Infantry Division 5, multi-battalions 43 and 52 and part of multi-battalion 48 (Infantry Division 18) Battalions 73 and 84, and a *bao an* battalion of subsector Phuoc Vinh mounted fierce assaults. The PLAF of Phuoc Long and Thu Dau Mot provinces hit back hard and wiped out 1,300 adverse troops and drove the rest away, wrecking a quantity of their material.

From July 15 to August 6, Thieu's Regiments 44, 45 and 53, Ranger multi-battalion 2 and three Border Ranger battalions, five *bao an* battalions, five armoured battalions and three artillery battalions (in all 28 infantry, armoured and artillery battalions) undertook 127 operations on PRG-controlled areas at Dacrocot, and Ngoc Bay, on Height 674 Ngo Thanh, Trung Nghia, Pleicolo (Kontum), and at Pleimorong (Gia Lai). To support their ground troops, the enemy flew 412 sorties (dropping 2,428 bombs) and fired 14,987 105mm, 155mm and 175mm shells. During the actions they burnt down Te village and heavily devastated Huynh village, respectively 3.8 miles northeast and 2 miles northwest of Pleimorong. The PLAF of Gia Lai and Kontum took a toll of over 200 adverse men, destroyed many tanks M.41 and armoured carriers M-113, downed an AD-6 and seized a large amount of war materials.

From July 30 to August 1st the Saigon command hurled regular troops, security forces and militia with air, artillery and tank support into sweeps and land-grabbing raids on the liberated zone in Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen, Hoa Vang and Dai Loc districts and in the periphery of Hoi An city, Quang Nam province. On August 1st, *bao an* battalion 143, a scouting company and two gun boats attacked Cum An (Hoi An) and Dien Hai (Dien Ban villages). Hundreds of houses were destroyed and orchards levelled by bulldozers.

In the meantime liberated areas in Quang Ngai province came under fire. Sweeps and incursions were mounted into Minh Duc and Duc Thanh villages. Under a barrage of 1,300 artillery shells the intruders broke into many localities of Binh Son, Son Tinh and Duc Pho districts. The local PLAF put out of action over 200. They also grounded an aircraft, put three tanks out of commission and seized a number of weapons and signal equipment.

On August 3, regional forces of Tra Vinh province engaged in fighting enemy troops illegally garrisoned in Tan Hoa village, Tieu Can district, knocking down a platoon and capturing all their weapons. The next day, together with local guerillas they did short work of another platoon. Also on August 4 the PLAF of Tieu Can fought back Saigon land-grabbers at Ong Lanh, destroyed a military vehicle, inflicted heavy losses on two companies of Battalion 404.

From July 19 to 21, enemy forces staged 36 operations in My Tho province, among them two of regimental, three of battalion and nine of company sizes. They fired hundreds of artillery shells to support the invaders at Ba Rai, killing many people. Liberation troops killed a number of enemy and crushed their attempts.

On July 25, Saigon troops raided the locality of Giong Lon in Binh Hoa village, Long An province, former site of a return of civilian personnel. The PLAF forcefully counter-attacked and wiped out a company. Some days before, guerillas had written off a company of *Bao an* battalion 305 who tried to occupy several areas in Duc Hue district.

Between July 29 and August 1st, PLAF of Thua Thien province foiled adverse operations north of Khe Thai, in Bach Ma, Phong Son, Ly Hy and Truc Mao.

On June 19, regional troops and guerillas of Kien Tuong province repelled intruders into the Nguyen Van Tiep canal area, knocking out 270 men of Regiment 14, Division 9 and setting afire several tanks and armoured carriers. On July 20, guerillas inflicted 20 casualties on Regiment 14 in Hung Thot.

On July 18, regionals of Giong Trom, Ben Tre province intercepted *Bao an* battalions 507 and 515 as they tried to occupy Thuan Dien and Long My villages under PRG control. An adverse company, a deputy battalion commander and a lieutenant were wiped out. Meantime, guerillas wrote off a commando company of *Bao an* battalion 454 raiding liberated areas is the eastern periphery of the municipal district of Ben Tre provincial city.

Between August 1 and 4, guerillas of Rach Gia and Can Tho provinces fought off raiders in the liberated areas of Tan Hiep, Giong Rieng and Go Quao (Rach Gia), and along Lai Hieu canal (Can Tho). 60 enemy were put out of action and an M-113 destroyed.

From June 30 to July 25, Saigon Ranger Battalion 64 and several *bao an* companies, with air and artillery support, intruded in the Bao Ninh – Bao Chanh railway portion in Xuan Loc district, Long Khanh province. Meeting with resistance from guerillas, the enemy sustained 100 casualties.

On July 20 and 24 five warships pounded areas under PRG control along the river from Nam Can to Tam Giang, in South Western Nam Bo. PLAF returned fire, burned one ship and sent three others to the bottom.

More pagodas destroyed by Saigon troops during their land-grabbing operations

Thieu's economic setback

ON August 9 last, Nguyen Van Thieu took the decision to cancel TVA (Added Value Tax) on all direct transactions. It was a major setback of his in his attempt to extort money from all sections of the toiling people in the areas under his control in order to defray his war expenditure, and strengthen his armed forces to serve US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam.

Owing to the rapid decline of income caused by the pull-out of GIs, the granting of US aid in dribblets, the slump in production and exports, exhaustion of foreign currency reserves, galloping inflation, devaluation of the piastre, Thieu had not hesitated to squeeze the masses with various taxes. But all his efforts had not been able to fill his budget deficit caused by the Viet Nam war policy inherited from the Americans.

On July 1st, 1973, applying "Vietnamization of the economy," Thieu imposed a new tax—TVA—which hit indiscriminately all the goods and individuals in the areas under his control. It was exorbitant and compounded all other taxes already instituted; furthermore, those who could not paid it were heavily fined. With TVA, Thieu had reckoned to fleece in a short time the population of 34 billion piastres, representing roughly half the total annual revenue of the Saigon administration.

The TVA aggravated the predicament of Saigon economy. Many commodities disappeared from the market, prices spiraled up, the people's living standard went from bad to worse.

The mass movement against TVA gained momentum especially among workers, toilers, traders, businessmen, intellectuals, artistes, clergymen, army-men, civil servants... On July 13, over 4,000 delegates of nearly half a million handicraftsmen and small traders flocked to Freedom Street-Nguyen Hue Street crossroad in Saigon and mobbed the Director of the Tax Department to urge cancellation of the tax. In all towns and urban centres in the Saigon-controlled areas tens of thousands of transport workers and handicraftsmen refused to pay it. Notwithstanding a drastic censorship, the Saigon press started a campaign exposing its true nature and laying the blame on the Thieu administration for the impoverishment of the population.

The upsurge of the anti-TVA movement put Thieu in a spot. The Cultural and Educational Council and Saigon Municipal Council raised its voice for its abolition. Many Saigon "MP"s and "representatives" warned the administration against its consequences and were drafting an amendment to its bill.

Thieu has had now to lift TVA on such branches as retail trade, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, handicrafts and small industries, cultural, educational, social activities, physical culture and sports, the press, entertainment, insurance, public utilities, electricity and water. He has had also to renounce collection of arrears of other taxes for the last two years.

The fact that Thieu has had to give up part of TVA shows that though cruel and obdurate, he cannot ignore the protest of the inhabitants living in the areas under his control.

In view of the Algiers Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries (Sept. 5 to 8, 1973)

Let's push up the anti-imperialist movement

THE Fourth Conference of Heads of State of Non-Aligned Countries due to meet soon in Algeria's capital assumes a special importance for the fate of Third World countries and of mankind as well. Never before have the Third World nations occupied so important a place as now in the international arena. And never before have the member countries in the forthcoming September Summit Conference in Algeria been so united and so resolved as now to fight against old and new colonialism and racial discrimination and for complete emancipation of their peoples from national and social oppression and the masterhood of their own fate.

This state of things is the outcome of a long struggle of the world's progressive forces since World War II. The weakening of imperialism, the increasing successes of the national liberation movement in Asia and Africa, the continual growth of the world socialist system have led to the unavoidable collapse of old colonialism. The destiny of nations formerly regarded as "small" and "backward" is no longer decided casually in the capitals of European and American countries; it is rather so by their own gruelling fight to liberate themselves politically, economically and culturally and to assert their own personality in the community of nations. From the ruins of old empires have emerged more than 70 independent countries with a population of 1,500 million. They have trodden various paths, which are not always smooth, to varying degrees of independence. For all the differences existing between them, those newly independent countries share a common stance against colonialism, racial discrimination and various manifestations of imperialism. Through their own experience, they have realized that the fight against imperialism is a *sine qua non* condition for the reconquest and preservation of national independence and democracy, for economic and cultural development and for the improvement of their peoples' lot.

Non-alignment and active neutralism in foreign relations followed by the majority of young independent states is also an expression of this general trend in the context of attempts by imperialist powers to attach them to their orbits with military and economic "alliances" now that they have been compelled to recognize the political independence of their former colonies. Non-alignment and neutralism advocated by these states is indicative of their will to remain free from imperialist control. The soundness of such a tendency is borne out by the disentanglement of ever more Third World countries from military blocs to which they were once forced to adhere. Unlike the battle for political independence, disengagement from the many-sided imperialist sway is a sustained exertion to maintain and consolidate their newly-won independence, get rid of economic subordination and backwardness and develop their own national culture for long scorned. The upsurge of not a few nations has sometimes to go through fire and blood on account of counter-attacks by imperialist countries that still have at their disposal abundant resources. But clearly enough, this liberation process is an irreversible one. This is firstly thanks to the unshakeable will of those peoples concerned who are resolved to become masters of their own fate. Then favourable conditions were created for them by the growth of the socialist system, which has brought about a far-reaching change in the world balance of forces. The consolidation of national independence by young states has been made possible by the support and assistance of the socialist countries and by their own sense of solidarity and mutual help. By pooling their forces, the newly-independent countries have obtained their present world status. The strength of developing countries lies not only in their capacity as representatives of a major part of the globe with extremely rich natural resources, but also and mainly in their firm resolve to achieve national and social freedom. The cases of Viet Nam, Algeria, Cuba and so many other countries have shown that the firmer a nation is in her confrontation with imperialism, the greater support and assistance it can get from other nations, and the greater weight its voice carries in the solution of world problems. Their role now in the world has been won by an unyielding fight against old and new colonialism, racial discrimination, etc, and by their close solidarity and mutual help in combat.

Our fight has not come to a close since world imperialism, the common enemy of all nations, has not laid down its weapons and renounced its sordid interests. The atrocious deeds of US imperialism in Southeast Asia, of the Portuguese colonialists in Africa, of Israel in the Middle East, of the racists in South Africa and Rhodesia aided and abetted by the imperialists, are clear evidence of their obstinacy in thwarting the other peoples' aspirations for independence and democracy. With more subtle methods, especially in economy and finance, they continue to exploit the latter's natural resources so as to keep them in a state of under development. It is not by chance that ten years after liberation from old colonialism, Africa remains the poorest continent on our planet, to be followed by Asia and Latin America, though all the three continents are quite rich in natural resources. The following data show the degrees of dependence of Western capitalist countries on the natural resources of the Third World countries and an unfair distribution of wealth, as a result of imperialist exploitation:

Petroleum	55%	Bauxite	64%
Iron	35%	Chromium, manganese, antimony	85%
Cobalt	70%		
Copper	40%	Tin	82%.

(*Le Pillage du Tiers Monde* by Pierre Jalee—Maspero Edition 1973—Percentage for the year 1970).

45 billion dollars were invested by Western capitalist countries in 1967 in the newly-independent countries. The United States alone accounted for 23 billion dollars of State and private investments there in 1971, according to official statistics. In his book *De l'aide à la recolonisation* (Seuil Editions-1972), Tibor Mende denounced:

"For instance, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico and Zambia — to cite only a few countries— admit that in 1967 they paid, in the form of interests and profits, more than they received, in the form of new investments or aid. In some sense, they have "helped" their industrialized benefactors since 1967. And the list lengthens with every passing day..."

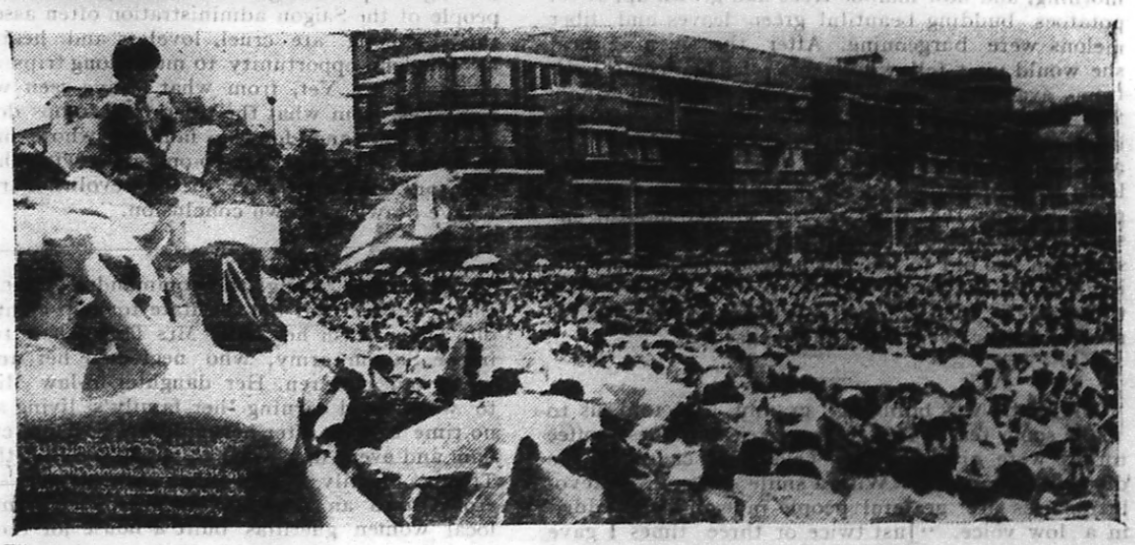
It is known to everybody that the lion's share is taken by US imperialism which is also the most active in keeping the Third World in a state of underdevelopment and in the conditions of countries specialized in supplying raw materials and buying manufactured products. Today as all forms of old colonialism has become unacceptable to the whole world, imperialism is putting into effect new, "improved" neo-colonialist methods of exploitation.

The realization of such a danger has impulsed the leaders of Non-Aligned Countries to raise their voices to demand that foreign countries no longer lay hold on their natural resources and at the same time they oppose wars of aggression, racist regimes, etc. As they grow more and more conscious that US imperialism is the major enemy today, Third World countries call for more violence against US exploitation in all fields. The anti-US trend was a distinctive feature of the 1972 Georgetown Conference; it has recently become that of many non-aligned countries.

The Republic of South Viet Nam has ever since admired their fight against old and new colonialism, and racial discrimination. The South Vietnamese people, the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government completely identify themselves with their effort for independence, democracy and social progress; we regarded our anti-US patriotic resistance as part and parcel of the common drive of Asian, African and Latin American nations. Its victory was that of all nations. It was won mainly thanks to the zealous support and assistance by the progressive peoples and governments of those countries which either were or still are victims of old and new colonialism, just like South Viet Nam.

We consider the support extended by non-aligned countries to our fight and their invitation to the Republic of South Viet Nam to participate for the first time in a Non-Aligned Summit a fine gesture of militant comradeship-in-arms. It is all the more significant as US imperialism and its satellites are trying to prevent it with every available means. However their scheme to drive a wedge between the Republic of South Viet Nam and other members of the Non-Aligned family will meet with bitter failure as it did in August 1972 in Georgetown.

Solidarity is an efficient anti-imperialist weapon in our hands! Solidarity means victory!



B.52 carcasses at the Some Images of the 1972 Victory Exhibition

Sixty thousand Thai students demonstrating against US imperialism

Jute, a widespread industrial plant in North Viet Nam. Jute rug is a good export item

Quick rehabilitation and expansion of handicraft

Since the restoration of peace, most of the traditional handicrafts in North Viet Nam have been restored and extended to meet the demands on the home and foreign markets.

In the first half of this year, the value of handicraft articles for export doubled compared with the same period last year.

More than 31 long-standing crafts have been increasing their produce for export, such as lacquer, mother-of-pearl inlay, embroideries, silk fabrics, woollen tapestry, ratten and rush products. The trade now involves some 120,000 handicraftmen, 50,000 of whom were trained in the recent past.

In 1972, even at the height of the US air war of destruction the export lines of handicrafts increased by more than 12 per cent compared with 1971. Woollen carpets for export doubled its output value compared with 1969. The increase was more than 40 per cent for embroideries and lace works.

Of the export lines, woollen tapestry has seen particularly quick expansion, especially in Hanoi, Hai Phong and in Ha Bac province. Vietnamese woollen carpets were awarded a gold medal at the 1969 Leipzig Fair. In the first half of this year, nearly 20 more establishments engaged in this trade have been built in Thai Binh, Ninh Binh and Ha Tay provinces and Hanoi city with more than 150 new looms. Besides, North Viet Nam has also turned out carpets with other materials such as rush, maize-ear sheath and jute. The latter category has won quite a reputation abroad for the durability and attractive designs of the carpets. Several new jute tapestry co-ops have been founded in Hanoi and Hai Hung province. Bamboo wares of Viet Nam still are much in demand on world market. Bang So village in Ha Tay province, cradle of the Vietnamese bamboo art craft, is annually supplying to the world market more than 300 different kinds of bamboo articles.

THE GRATEFUL

MRS Cai's long-nurtured dream had always been to see her two sons return home after the cessation of hostilities. The peace accord was signed four months ago, her house had been rebuilt by liberation soldiers, yet they still were held back by "the other side" in the army.

The afternoon sea-breeze blew through casuarina trees left standing by B.52 bombings and showers of cluster bombs. With obvious satisfaction she gazed at the thatch-roofed dwelling with an East exposure. With tears in her eyes she told neighbours visiting her, "Small as this house is, it is a real token of the affection of the revolution for my family."

Since she had been in its possession, the old lady who was going on for seventy seemed to be in high spirits. She never failed to do some gardening every morning, and now manioc trees had grown up, sweet potatoes budding beautiful green leaves and fiber melons were burgeoning. After the evening meal she would visit fellow-villagers who had come back from evacuation areas. She did not miss a single film show or a song and dance performance. Though, like other families, granny Cai still lacked meat and fish in the first peace days, she could cook a large bowl of soup made of vegetables from her own plot. Raising the bowl of rice to her mouth, she said: "My two sons are still retained by the Saigon side. I'm too old to do much work. The rice I eat is given by the revolutionary power. So is everything else — the spade with which I till land, the manioc stems over there in the garden."

The kettle was bubbling, granny Cai told us to make some tea. "This fragrant tea and these coffee toffies were given me by Quang, a cadre of the district committee." With a smile she said, "Revolutionaries are grateful people indeed," she added in a low voice. "Just twice or three times I gave Quang board and bed when he was being hunted down by the enemy, and he has not forgotten that. Whenever he comes this way, he always drops in on me with a present of one kind or another. And if he has no opportunity to do so for some time, he sends me sugar, tea or cigarette paper through some one from our village. The tea you see over there is what is left of the packet he gave me for Tet."

She put down the bowl of rice on the tray. With emotion in her voice and tears in her eyes, she said: "The more I hate the Americans, the more I love my children and *Anh Giai Phong* (liberation fighter). American and Saigon troops raided this region again and again and all my property was destroyed. *Anh Giai Phong* took me and my fellow-villagers to safety. They dug a trench, built a shelter for me and supplied my daily rice. When I fell ill because of a sudden change in the weather they would gave me good care and even medicines badly needed by soldiers at the forefront, and hot onion soup with an egg in it if I could not eat boiled rice. During sleepless nights I used to ponder over this: people of the Saigon administration often assert that the Vietcong are cruel, loveless and heartless. I have had no opportunity to make long trips and see many things. Yet, from what I have seen with my own eyes, from what the liberation troops do everyday for me and for the families whose members have co-operated or are co-operating with the other side, or have gone over to the revolutionary side, I have drawn my own conclusion."

"You know, Tung, the commander of the unit," she went on, "did not hesitate to help eighty-year-old Thuan wash her hair. Mrs Thuan had two sons in the Saigon army, who neglected her and their wives and children. Her daughter-in-law Minh had to work hard earning her family's living and had no time to look after her children. So Tung cut their hair and every day washed them. Seeing that Mrs Thuan's family — nine members in all — had to crowd into an underground shelter, his men and local women guerillas built a house for them. Led to their new place by her little grandson, the blind old woman ran her hand on the door panel. Tears trickled down her sunken cheeks. "Many thanks to the revolution, many thanks to you all, liberation officers and men," Minh sobbed out.

The, the wife of another Saigon soldier also benefited from similar help from *Anh Giai Phong*. Pregnant, she had to care for her husband's mother and two children of his by his first wife. B.52's killed the mother-in-law and the two children. Liberation troops buried them as best they could. The square cardboad-roofed hut that The's husband proudly spoke of as a sample of US aid had been reduced to rubble by American bombs. *Anh Giai Phong* promptly built for her and her future child a bamboo hut and an air-raid shelter. They also supplied her with all."

Lowering her voice, granny Cai said: "Living long together helps us understand one another better." Looking at liberation soldiers she thought of her sons and it was her hope that the latter would soon awaken to the truth, come over to the side of the revolution and live the meaningful life of the liberation fighters.

T.D.

THE bombings "by mistake" by American aircraft of the Lon Nol troops stationed around Neak Luong early this month, causing hundreds of casualties, not only spelled out the ruthlessness of a tyrant, but the panic of a man brought to bay.

Bombings "by mistake"? No. They were the national outcome of wanton extermination raids by the Americans in Cambobia, of indiscriminate bombardments when their means have been exhausted to save the deliquescent Phnom Penh troops. For over one hundred days running, the Pentagon admits, B.52s have been dumping their bomb-loads at an ever quicker tempo and with a fierceness which by far exceeds of the air raids on Hanoi and Hai Phong in the closing days of 1972.

This barbarity reminds us of the bragging of the man in the White House that the aggression against

The destiny of Cambodia is in the hands of these Cambodian Liberation Fighters

Cambodia

A fresh failure of the Nixon doctrine

Cambodia is a "pure form of the Nixon doctrine." It is an aggression with no US expeditionary forces, unlike in South Viet Nam, but a war waged according to the "native troops+American weaponry" formula. Now the "pure form" of this doctrine has led to the slaughters at Neak Luong because from that formula, it logically ensues that the more the Lon Nol troops give proof of their inefficiency, the more intense is the fire from American aircraft, to cope with the situation.

Therefore, in some respect, the intensification of US bombings is a public acknowledgement of this inefficiency. But whatever may be the level of violence of these air strikes, that formula cannot work. This has been shown by narrowing distance between the "mistakenly" bombed sites and Phnom Penh tightly beleaguered by the Liberation forces, and proved that the Americans are heartless enough to kill even those who fight for them, when they are no longer useful.

Nothing can ward off the collapse of the Phnom Penh quislings. In fact, though they are paid, equipped and trained by the Americans and strongly supported by their aircraft, the Lon Nol troops have evacuated one post after another. Their losses are so heavy that even frequent round-ups cannot replenish their strength, let alone raise their morale. Thrashed in the dry season, they are now soundly beaten in the wet season, a period usually favourable to them.

The military situation which grows from bad to worse for them has sown greater and greater confusion and aggravated the differences in the ranks of the Phnom Penh quislings. As the situation is hopeless they begin to find fault with, and to lay the blame on, each other.

Their "Supreme Political Council" set up by the Americans to bring them together is but a body in which they wrangle for positions and privileges, while the "Khmer Republic" rigged up three years ago is confined only within the limits of the city of Phnom Penh.

All supply from outside can only reach the capital at great costs owing to the heavy fire of the besiegers; market prices rise skyhigh thereby compounding an unsettled state of things created by military setbacks.

According to foreign observers, all the roads from Phnom Penh are full of refugees who bring along with them their children and belongings — beds, mats and even water jars. Foreign missions in the capital have ordered some of their staffs and their nationals, particularly women and children, to leave the city without delay before it is too late.

In its August 6 issue, the *Time* reported that Lon Nol had signed a mobilization decree but nobody believes that it can save this city. American bombs have been dropped so near that their blasts shake the buildings in the city. Obviously, far from being able to check the liberation troops' irresistible advance, these bombardments only heap up ruins.

Whereas the air strikes fizzle out lamentably, they help make the Nixon administration more unpopular at home and abroad.

Never have the American press and Congress been so unanimous and resolute to set a deadline for the bombing of Cambodia (August 15) as a step to the ending of US military involvement in this area (the bombings are even condemned by B.52 airmen).

The latest developments in Cambodia have clearly shown the pitiful bankruptcy of the "Nixon doctrine in its pure form". So a client army expensively and elaborately trained by the US plus a most formidable fire power of the US strategic air force has been unable to help the Nixon administration attain its immediate and far-reaching goals in Cambodia.

A Phnom Penh paper has quoted the US Embassy as telling Lon Nol: "Step down if you cannot get your job done!" In all fairness that is what should be said to the Yankees in Cambodia.

The Third World **in effervescence**

★ ★ ★

THAILAND

On July 9, Nong Sa village (Sakhon Nakhon province, Northeast of Thailand) fell into the hands of the Thai patriotic armed forces. The revolutionary authorities have immediately opened a school there.

On July 30, the patriotic armed forces mounted an attack on a police post in Me Chan district (Tak province) and a nearby border-post held by Bangkok patrolmen.

PALESTINE

Between July 1st and 25, the Palestine patriotic armed forces blew up a petrol refinery, several oil dumps and an arsenal of the Israeli aggressors near Tel Aviv. They also ambushed Israeli patrols at Beraq Town (north of Jerusalem), the Beith Shean Valley, the Neguev Desert, etc., destroying four military trucks and all men onboard.

Earlier, on two consecutive days (June 29 and 30), the patriotic armed forces destroyed with mines three major chemical works in Tel Aviv, levelled an artillerymen's garrison and a police post.

GUINEA (BISSAU)

From July 12 to 20, the Guinean patriotic armed forces fiercely blocked the way of the Portuguese colonialists' convoys of ammunition and foodstuffs for their besieged troops on the Nakra-More, Bula-Kamchungo and Domingo-Sambuia battle-fronts, killing 77 Portuguese soldiers, destroying 15 military vehicles, seizing a big haul of war booty. All the operations against the liberated areas had been beaten off.

ARGENTINA

On August 2nd, Argentina's House of Representatives passed a bill under which seven foreign banks, most of them American, will be nationalized.

The Bill also forbids foreign investments in the transport, information, national defence, press and advertisement.

The House also voted a recommendation to the Government to expel US Chargé d'Affaires McCrap from Argentina for his protests against the nationalization bill, which were an act of interference in the internal affairs of Argentina.

The US Embassy had to apologize to the Argentinian Government and promise not to make similar "mistakes" again.

IRELAND

A 3-hour clash between Irish youths and British troops took place on the night of August 3rd.

Hundreds of the former threw stones and broken glass at a police station and at the tanks of the latter. At a meeting, 3,000-strong, held in protest against the detention of Irish political dissenters by the British police, there was also a fight.

PANAMA

In a recent note to the US Embassy in Panama, the Panamanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs protested against the US military authorities' planned eviction of Panamanian peasants from the land bordering the Canal. "The canal area lies within the Panamanian territorial rights" the note said, "and the Government of Panama will give the peasants there every necessary protection so that the interests of each citizen of the Republic of Panama will be respected."

The Panamanian press has carried many leading articles on the incident flayed as an illegal US act, a "further humiliation for the national honour;" some newspapers even went as far as to denounce the Americans as "land-grabbers."

Agreement on Soviet gratuitous economic aid to PRG signed

AN Agreement on the Soviet Government's gratuitous economic aid to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam for 1973 was signed in Moscow on August 1st.

Under this agreement, the Soviet Union will supply the PRG with many kinds of machines and equipment, agricultural machines, foodstuffs, medicaments, industrial consumer goods, and other materials in order to meet the needs for stabilizing the life of the South Vietnamese people after the signing of the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam.

Soviet Deputy-Minister of Foreign Trade I.T. Grishin and RSVN Ambassador to the Soviet Union Dang Quang Minh signed the agreement.

Present at the signing ceremony on the Soviet side were V.N. Novikov, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers ; N.X. Patolichev, Minister of Foreign Trade ; N.P. Firyubin, Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and many other responsible officials.

On the South Vietnamese side were Cao Van Hung, Counsellor of the RSVN Embassy; members of the RSVN economic experts' delegation and staff members of the RSVN Embassy in the Soviet Union.

Also present on this occasion were Vo Thuc Dong, DRVN Ambassador to the Soviet Union ; and Nguyen Tu, Commercial Counsellor of the DRVN Embassy.

On the same day, Foreign Trade Minister N.X. Patolichev, received Ambassador Dang Quang Minh, head of the RSVN economic delegation to the negotiations in Moscow.

At the 10th World Youth and Students Festival

Imperialism on trial

ON August 3rd, the Festival's Centre for the Accusation of Imperialism saw a new surge of activity with the opening of a session to demand that the US and the Saigon administration instantly return all political inmates in South Viet Nam. Thousands of Youth representatives from more than a hundred nations attended it.

From that forum, they strongly denounced the crimes perpetrated by imperialism, with the USA at its head, against the nations fighting for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. They especially spearheaded their charges against US imperialism which has long been aiding and abetting its Saigon 'stooges' prolonged detention and torturing of hundreds of thousands of political prisoners in South Viet Nam, in defiance of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

Angry slogans against the US and the Saigon administration were shouted time and again when Miss Le Thi Do, a victim of Saigon's inhuman prison regime, took the floor. The appeals from the Head of the South Viet Nam Delegation of Youth and Students and the Jury of the Trial Session were ebulliently passed by the Youth and Students Delegations of other countries. National Committees were formed by the delegations from Switzerland, Great Britain, France, Italy, Finland, Yugoslavia, the German Federal Republic, etc., with a view to eventually founding an International Action Committee of Youth and Students for the immediate release of all political detainees in South Viet Nam by the US and the Saigon administration.

Long live International Solidarity !

Freedom for all political detainees in South Viet Nam! "

"US imperialists, stop at once the war in Cambodia ! "

"All-out support for the legitimate struggle of the Lao people ! "

"Let's support the Chilean Revolution ! "

"The Arab Peoples will certainly win ! "

"The revolutionary movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America are always advancing, " etc.

Those were the watch words chanted amidst a thunder of drum beating, music and songs. Marx-Engels Square in the heart of Berlin was alive with militancy. Twenty-five thousand representatives of the youth and students from all countries in the world, Berlin's seven hundred and fifty thousand youths and inhabitants merrily converged on the place, faces beaming, eyes bright and laughing...

Angela Davis, the famous American peace-fighter, read out in a sweet voice full of poise the Festival's appeal :

From Berlin, our appeal is meant for the young generations the world over.

This is the most appropriate moment to show our solidarity with the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia in their fight against imperialism, with the people of Palestine and other Arab nations, with the movements for national liberation in Portuguese colonies and South Africa, with all the countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, with the peoples of the capitalist countries, with the socialist countries, and with all the peoples who are advancing on the road of progress and peace.

Let's vigorously step up our movement and unity against imperialism, for national independence, democracy, social progress and peace.

That was how the grand Festival against imperialism, for peace and friendship of the youth and students from the five continents wound up on the night of August 5.

DRVN-RSR

common determination to strengthen friendship relations

According to *VNA*, a delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam led by Pham Van Dong, Political Bureau member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic Viet Nam, paid an official friendship visit to the Romanian Socialist Republic from July 28 to August 1st, 1973.

Nicolae Ceausescu, Secretary General of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania, received the Viet Nam Party and Government delegation and had cordial talks with it. The talks took place in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and militant solidarity between the two parties, the two countries and the two peoples.

On the occasion of this visit, the two sides had extensive talks on the internal situation of the two countries, the development and prospects of the Viet Nam-Romania relations as well as on international issues of common concern. The talks proceeded in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding and fraternal friendship typifying the Viet Nam-Romania relationship.

The delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam warmly greeted the achievements recorded by the Romanian people in the building of socialism thanks to their industrious labour and creative talents under the leadership of the Romanian Communist Party. Today Romania is a socialist country where the socialist relations of production have prevailed in the whole economy, industry has become the leading branch, agriculture is developing strongly, culture, science and technology have made notable progress and the people's living standard has improved day after day.

The Vietnamese party sincerely wished that the fraternal Romanian people, under the leadership of the Romanian Communist Party headed by esteemed Nicolae Ceaucescu, would successfully implement the tasks set by the 10th Congress and the 1972 national conference of the Romanian Communist Party for building comprehensively developed socialist society in Romania.

The Vietnamese side gave an account of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué of June 13, 1973, reaffirmed the unswerving stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam of thoroughly respecting and scrupulously implementing the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué, and demanding that the United States and the Saigon administration do the same.

The Romanian side voiced full support for this stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam as well as the proposals made on June 28, 1973 by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, which are in accordance with the Paris Agreement and aimed at solving the internal affairs of South Viet Nam by peaceful and democratic means in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord and on the basis of recognizing the actual existence now in South Viet Nam of two administrations, two armies, two zones of control and three political forces.

The Romanian side assured the Viet Nam Party and Government delegation that in the future, the Romanian people loyal to the principles of socialist internationalism, will give the Vietnamese people support and assistance in all fields with the aim of materializing their legitimate aspirations.

The Romanian Socialist Republic will make all-out efforts to develop its good relations with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the sole legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people.

The two sides reiterated their common determination to continue in the future to strive for the strengthening and development of the relations between the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Romanian Communist Party, to broaden and diversify the relations in all fields between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Romanian Socialist Republic, in keeping with the aspirations and interests of the two countries, with the interest of the solidarity among the socialist countries within the international communist and workers' movement, with the goals of the struggle against the reactionary and imperialist forces, for peace, independence, democracy and socialism.

The two sides agreed upon the aid rendered by the Romanian Socialist Republic to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in overcoming the war sequence, in stepping up socialist construction, and in broadening the relations in all fields between the two countries. As a result of the talks, the two sides have signed agreements on the Romanian Socialist Republic's economic and military aid to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam as well as on economic co-operation and goods exchange between the two countries for 1974.

South Viet Nam CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION